(c) what action has so far been taken by the Government to keep an eye on such activities and to put an effective check on the recurrence of the same permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Nothing specific has come to Govt.'s notice in this regard.

(c) Does not arise. However, a continous watch and surveillance in kept on the border. Joint patrolling by ITBP and Army is also done to keep a check on the situation.

Prolonged of women in jails

2193. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of women inmates including foreign women nationals, languishing in Indian jails at present;

(b) whether the prolonged stay of women in Indian jails is due to slow trials of women by Courts in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken for speedy trial of women inmates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) At the end of the year 2000, there were 9089 women prisoners including foreign women prisoners in jails in the country.

(b) and (c) Slow process of trial is one of the major factors for prolonged stay of women in jails. The intervention made to improve the situation in brief are as under:—

(i) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1994 contains, *inter-alia*, a proposal to insert a new section namely; section 438 A in the code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to provide that where an under-trial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on personal bond, with or without sureties.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

It is also proposed to provide that in no case will an under trial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence.

(ii) The Central Government have also sanctioned a scheme of setting up 1734 Fast Track Courts for disposing off long pending cases involved under trials on priority.

(iii) The Chief Justice of India, wrote a letter on the 29th November, 1999 to all the Chief Justices of the High Courts suggesting that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jails falls may hold his court once or twice in a month in the jail to take up the cases of those under trial prisoners who are involved in petty offences.

Women commando force in NSG

2194. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a women commando force in the National Security Guard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have agreed to induction of women personnel on deputation for some kinds of duties in NSG.

Rajiv-Longowal accord

2195. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as provided in clause 7 of Rajiv-Longowal Accord, Chandigarh was to be transferred to Pubjab with effect from 26th January, 1986, what steps the Centre proposes to take to implement it since the accord was arrived at the initiative of the Centre; and

(b) if the issue is to be decided between the wrangling two States, what steps has the Centre taken to bring them together?